

Carnforth Urban District Council

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955.



Carnforth Urban District Council

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

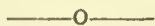
1955.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2909348x>

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Chairman of the Council:

W. A. Morphy, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

R. T. Barnard, Esq.

Members:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| R. Byram, Esq., J.P. | J. F. Clague, Esq. |
| W. H. Ellis, Esq. | A. Barber, Esq. |
| W. C. Francis, Esq. | Mrs. M. Newsham |
| Mrs. A. Webb | |

Clerk to the Council:

T. A. Farrer, Esq. (to September)
A. Pearson, Esq., F.C.C.S. (from September)

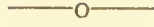
Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. Farquhar, B.Sc. (Agri.) M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H

Sanitary Inspector:

F. O. Waterhouse, Esq.

CONTENTS.



| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| SECTION A. | STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA. | Page 8 |
| SECTION B. | GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. | Page 13 |
| SECTION C. | PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. | Page 17. |
| SECTION D. | SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. | Page 20. |

Carnforth Urban District Council



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955, on the health and sanitary conditions in your District.

The estimated home population at mid-year 1955 was 3,810, an increase of 190 on the previous year's estimate.

There were 71 registered live births during the year, equivalent to a crude birth rate of 18.6 per 1,000 population, compared with an average rate of 15.5 over the preceding five years.

Deaths from all causes assigned to the district amounted to 46, three less than last year, giving a crude death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 population. The 1955 death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000. In order of importance the chief causes of death were heart disease (all forms) which accounted for 34.8% of the total deaths, followed by cancer (all forms) with 23.9% and vascular lesions of the nervous system with 19.6%.

During 1955 there were no deaths from maternal causes. One infant under the age of one year died and one stillbirth occurred.

An outbreak of measles resulted in 68 cases being notified during the year, the largest number since 1951, when 88 cases were recorded. Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, but no deaths from tuberculosis occurred.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is given in Section D, from which it will be seen that the installation of a storm water relief sewer has adequately relieved the flooding which had occurred from time to time in the Russell Road area. Systematic and routine inspection of houses, factories and shops, the sampling of food, milk and water, the maintenance of an efficient system of sewers and sewage disposal plant—these seldom bring spectacular results although the maintenance of healthy living and working conditions in the community so largely depends on them. Slow but steady progress continues to be made in modernising the older type of house. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, imposed upon all Local Authorities the duty of carrying out a survey to determine those houses which were no longer fit for human habitation. As a result of the survey carried out during 1955 five houses were represented as being in this category, according to the new standard of fitness laid down in the Act. It will be for the Council to deal with these houses within the next five years.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the continued interest shown by the Council in all matters relating to Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

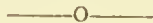
R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| AREA of the District (Acres) | 1,504 |
| POPULATION (Census 1931) | 3,139 |
| „ (Census 1951) | 3,388 |
| „ (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1955) | 3,810 |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951) | 1,095 |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1955) | 1,332 |
| RATEABLE VALUE | £25,647 |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE | £99 |



SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Railway and Agricultural work.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) | 38 | 30 | 68 |
| (Illegitimate) | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | <u>40</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>71</u> |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 18.6 |
| STILL BIRTHS—No. registered | | | 1 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births (live & still) ... | | | 14 |
| | M | F | |
| DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)—No. registered | 29 | 17 | 46 |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population | | | 12.1 |
| DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIC CAUSES:— | | | |
| Heart Disease (all forms) | | | 16 |
| Cancer (all forms) | | | 11 |
| Accidents (all forms) | | | Nil |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | | | Nil |
| DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES— | | | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births | | | Nil |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 year) | | | 1 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | | | 14 |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 4 weeks) ... | | | 1 |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | | | 14 |

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES
OF DEATH DURING 1955**

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | — | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Diabetes | 1 | — | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system . | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Hypertension with heart disease ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other heart disease | 4 | — | 4 |
| Other circulatory disease | — | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | — | 2 |
| Bronchitis | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | — | 1 | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congenital malformations | — | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | — | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| All causes | 29 | 17 | 46 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND THE PERIOD 1950-54

| Year | Live births | | Deaths (all causes) | | Still Births | | Maternal Mortality | | Infant Mortality | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 pop'n | No. regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 total births | Total | | Neo-natal | |
| | | | | | | | | | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births | No. of deaths regis- tered | Rate per 1,000 live births |
| 1955 | 71 | 18.6* | 46 | 12.1* | 1 | 14 | Nil | Nil | 1 | 14 | 1 | 14 |
| " | 74 | 20.4 | 49 | 13.5 | 2 | 26 | 1 | 13.16 | 4 | 54 | 2 | 27 |
| " | 48 | 13.4 | 43 | 12.0 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2 | 42 | 1 | 21 |
| " | 46 | 13.3 | 38 | 11.0 | 3 | 61 | Nil | Nil | 3 | 65 | 1 | 22 |
| " | 44 | 13.0 | 42 | 12.4 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| " | 60 | 17.4 | 32 | 9.3 | 2 | 32 | Nil | Nil | 1 | 17 | 1 | 17 |
| Average 1950-1954 | | 15.5 | | 11.6 | | 23.8 | | 2.6 | | 35.6 | | 17.4 |

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.02)=19.0
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.00)=12.1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) **Domiciliary Services.**

For the benefit of residents in the area one district nurse/midwife is resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Yealand Redmayne and Bolton-le-Sands. Two health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) **Care of Mothers and Young Children.**

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement. Special attention is given by health visitors to premature babies, and, in co-operation with the Children's Department officers, to illegitimate children. During 1955 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 58.5 children per weekly session.

(3) **Combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre.**

At 21, Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2-4 p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9-30—11-30 a.m.) An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Thursday morning and afternoon. An ante-natal clinic is also held on alternate Friday afternoons and health education films are shown from time to time.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccination against small pox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic.

(5) Ambulance Service.

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) Other Services.

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 3 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) Welfare Services—National Assistance Act, 1948.

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee:—

- (a) Residential Accommodation: For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided either at Bay View, Lancaster, or at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe and Moor Platt, Caton.
- (b) Temporary Accommodation: In case of urgent need, e.g., fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided at Bay View, Lancaster.
- (c) Reception Centre: Part of the accommodation at Bay View is used for the reception of persons without a settled way of life, by arrangement between the County Council and the National Assistance Board.
- (d) Handicapped Persons: For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.

(8) Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Rickards and his staff in the Department of Pathology at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:—

- (a) Tuberculosis:—Chest Clinic, 8, Middle Street, Lancaster.
- (b) Venereal Diseases:—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.
- (c) Deaf Aid Clinic: A session for the provision of hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth, on the first Wednesday of each month.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955

Age Periods-Years

| Diseases | Total Cases | 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65 and over |
|--------------------|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | | | |
| Measles | 68 | 2 | 11 | 18 | 37 | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 14 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | | | |
| Acute Encephalitis | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Dysentery | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Total Cases | 91 | 3 | 19 | 22 | 46 | 1 | | | | |

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, comprising one male and two females. During the same period no deaths occurred from this disease.

| Age Groups | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| | Respiratory | | Other Forms | | Respiratory | | Other Forms | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 1-5 | | | | | | | | |
| 5-10 | | | | | | | | |
| 10-15 | | | | | | | | |
| 15-20 | | | | | | | | |
| 20-25 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 25-35 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 35-45 | | | | | | | | |
| 45-55 | | | | | | | | |
| 55-65 | | | | | | | | |
| Over 65 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 1 | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. Even in the absence of diphtheria in the community, it is essential that every effort must continue to be made towards ensuring that as many children as possible receive primary immunisation in infancy.

The efficacy of whooping cough vaccine has recently become more generally accepted, and greater use is now being made of a combined vaccine which provides (with fewer injections) considerable protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough.

Parents need to be reminded also of the valuable protection afforded by vaccination in early infancy against smallpox.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria in the last three years are compared.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1955, 1954, 1953 and 1952

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary Immunisations during the year.

| Year | Age at final injection. | | | | | Total under 5 yrs. | | | Total 5-14 years |
|------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------|
| | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | | 5-9 | 10-14 | |
| 1955 | 61 | 14 | — | 5 | 1 | 81 | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| 1954 | 38 | 21 | 2 | — | — | 61 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 1953 | 15 | 12 | 1 | — | — | 28 | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| 1952 | 23 | 10 | 4 | — | — | 37 | 1 | — | 1 |

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection, i.e., subsequent to complete course.

| Year | Age Group | | | |
|------|-----------|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | Total under 15 years |
| 1955 | 1 | 66 | 25 | 92 |
| 1954 | 9 | 77 | 23 | 109 |
| 1953 | 5 | 77 | 37 | 119 |
| 1952 | 4 | 32 | 4 | 40 |

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water abundant in quantity is supplied from the Lancaster Corporation reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons.

It receives adequate treatment by both chlorination and filtration, and it is analysed regularly by the Undertaking, in addition to which samples are taken by this Authority. Results show it to be satisfactory in quality.

All but 10 of the houses within the Carnforth Urban District are supplied from the public mains, the remainder (outlying farms and cottages) having private supplies. The expense of laying mains to these premises appears to be the one prohibiting factor towards the removal of these unsatisfactory supplies.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each purifying the sewage by sedimentation and filtration and discharging the effluent into adjacent streams.

A sewerage problem which has affected one particular area of the town, viz., Russell Road and the low-lying houses in that street for many years at times of storms of high intensity has now been dealt with in a way which ought to ensure future safety against surcharging of the sewer to the extent of backing up of sewage and floodwater above house floor level. A stormwater relief sewer has been constructed to meet the need and its use and operation since installation would appear to give proof that it is functioning with efficiency and that the past experiences of the residents in the area will not recur.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

All premises within the Council's sewerage system with the exception of Hagg Farm and Cottages are connected to the Council's sewers and have water closets.

Sanitary accommodation of premises not within the sewerage system is made up as follows:—

- 11 W.C.s to private sewage disposal plants.
- 6 Privies
- 8 Pail closets

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1400 bins per week are dealt with.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed its programme of house building except that a site still remains upon which a further block of 30 flats can be built whenever the Council considers it appropriate.

The houses owned by the Council now total 444 in number, of which 392 have been erected since 1946, the remaining 52 being the only Council houses in the area which existed before that date. This figure of 444 includes 24 flats mainly occupied by older people and 4 dwellings which form the upper stories of shops owned by the Council on their estate.

One house was built by private enterprise during the year.

The housing of the Urban District is made up as follows:

- 587 Modern type, detached, semi-detached or in terrace formation.
- 459 Cottage type.
- 286 Parlour type.

Most of the latter two groups were built in rows about 1880 and are generally structurally sound. They are through houses open on to roads with small yards at the rear. The process of modernisation of these houses continues, though only slowly, by the provision of hot water supply, baths and indoor sanitation.

There are only a very small number of houses which are totally unfit and which appear suitable only for demolition.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| No. of premises inspected | 90 |
| Defects discovered | 25 |
| Defects remedied | 25 |
| Informal Notices served | 25 |
| Statutory Notices served | Nil |
| Legal Proceedings | Nil |

INSPECTIONS OF SHOPS.

Inspection of shop premises as far as the Council are concerned are carried out simultaneously with visits made under the Shops Acts on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. No serious contraventions of those parts of the Act administered by the Urban Authority have been found.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The three butchers in the area are obtaining carcase meat and offal from wholesale distributors outside Carnforth. It is inspected before despatch and as there are no local slaughterhouses within the area the problem of meat inspection at time of slaughter of animals does not arise. Contact with the shops is, however, maintained, though there has been no occasion for the condemnation of any fresh or imported carcase meat or offal during the year.

Small amounts of tinned foods surrendered by shopkeepers and foodstuffs contaminated in transit have been dealt with.

No fish arriving in the area has had to be certified as unfit for consumption.

MILK.

All milk sold by retail within the area is sampled by a joint arrangement and the results of samples so taken during the year are as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests. | |
| No. of samples taken | 32 |
| Results negative | 32 |
| Results positive | 0 |
| (ii) Bacteriological examinations. | |
| No. of samples taken | 34 |
| Satisfactory | 34 |
| Unsatisfactory | 0 |
| (iii) Methylene Blue Reductase Test. | |
| No. of samples taken | 34 |
| Satisfactory | 33 |
| Unsatisfactory | 1 |

ICE CREAM

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and all premises registered for the sale of ice cream are satisfactory for the purpose.

FOOD POISONING.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning within the Urban District during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

Apart from small and sporadic infestations which have usually been quickly dealt with by occupiers of the premises, the Council's area has been little affected by rats and mice and no notices have been required to enforce disinfestation.

The Council's sewers have again shown themselves to be free on test baiting and the sewage disposal works are well under control.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are 22 in number and all are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

